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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,359	01/05/2004	Richard C. Wilmoth	03-0898.01	2197
21491	7590	06/15/2005		
LANIER FORD SHAVER & PAYNE P O BOX 2087 HUNTSVILLE, AL 35804			EXAMINER BOLES, DEREK	
			ART UNIT 3749	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/751,359

Applicant(s)

WILMOTH, RICHARD C.

Examiner

Derek S. Boles

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/12/04; 1/5/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim(s) 1-3, 5-7, 11, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gies et al. (5,355,910) in view of Klomhaus et al. (5,194,038). Gies et al. discloses all of the limitations of the claim(s) except for the relatively rigid layer operates to close the sealing flap irrespective of the pressure relief valve's orientation with respect to gravity. Klomhaus et al. discloses the presence of a relatively rigid layer operating to close the sealing flap irrespective of the pressure relief valve's orientation with respect to gravity. See fig. 1 of Gies et al. and abstract of Klomhaus et al. for the spring action of the flap. Hence, one skilled in the art would find it obvious to modify the system of Gies et al. to include the relatively rigid layer operating to close the sealing flap irrespective of the pressure relief valve's orientation with respect to gravity of Klomhaus et al. for the purpose of better flap performance in various situations. Regarding claim 2, see col. 3, lines 66-68 of Gies et al. Regarding claim 3, see element 30a of Gies et al. Regarding claims 5-7, 14 and 15 see element 20 of Gies et al.

Claim(s) 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gies et al. in view of Klomhaus et al. and in further view of Barton (6,210,266). Gies et al. in view of Klomhaus et al. discloses all of the limitations of the claim(s) except for sealing the flap to the support by heat staking. Barton discloses the presence of sealing the flap to the support by heat

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staking. See col. 4, line 63 to col. 5, line 5. Hence, one skilled in the art would find it obvious to modify the system of Gies et al. in view of Klomhaus et al. to include sealing the flap to the support by heat staking of Barton for the purpose of ease of manufacture.

Claim(s) 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gies et al. in view of Klomhaus et al. and in further view of Oppermann et al. (6,609,535). Gies et al. in view of Klomhaus et al. discloses all of the limitations of the claim(s) except for the rigid layer being a comb. Oppermann et al. discloses the presence of a rigid layer being a comb. See fig. 4. Hence, one skilled in the art would find it obvious to modify the system of Gies et al. in view of Klomhaus et al. to include a rigid layer being a comb of Oppermann et al. for the purpose of a more complete seal.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 4, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The provided references are representative of the state of the art that is applicable to the applicant's invention. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Derek S. Boles at (571) 272-4872.

D.S.B.

  
**DEREK S. BOLES**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**  
**GROUP 3700**

6/12/05